

DAILY BULLETIN

JANUARY 25, 2005

CHENEY TO LEAD U.S. DELEGATION TO HONOR AUSCHWITZ LIBERATION

Vice president will lead delegation, meet with Polish and Ukrainian leaders..... 1

TRANSLATING THE BUSH INAUGURAL ADDRESS

By Robert J. Lieber, Professor of Government and International Affairs at Georgetown University. 2

VOLUNTEER ENROLLMENT BEGINS FOR INTERNATIONAL HIV VACCINE STUDY

Study locations in North and South America, Caribbean, Australia 3

UPCOMING MIAMI CONFERENCE TO FOCUS ON FIGHTING MONEY LAUNDERING

Several U.S. officials will attend Feb. 9-11 event 5

CHENEY TO LEAD U.S. DELEGATION TO HONOR AUSCHWITZ LIBERATION

Vice president will lead delegation, meet with Polish and Ukrainian leaders

Vice President Richard Cheney will lead a U.S. delegation to Poland to attend events in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camps.

In addition to attending the official commemoration ceremonies on January 27, Cheney will participate in an event honoring survivors of the Holocaust who are now American citizens, deliver remarks to an international forum, and tour Auschwitz.

The vice president's agenda will include bilateral meetings with Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, Polish Prime Minister Marek Belka, and Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko.

The White House announced that other members of the U.S. Presidential Delegation to Poland are:

Mrs. Lynne Cheney

The Honorable Victor Ashe, U.S. Ambassador to Poland

Congressman Tom Lantos, Ranking Democrat on the House International Relations Committee and Holocaust Survivor

Mrs. Annette Tillemann Lantos, Holocaust Survivor

Mr. Feliks Bruks, President of the Polish Association of Former Political Prisoners and Holocaust Survivor

Ms. Deborah Lipstadt, Professor of Modern Jewish

and Holocaust Studies, Emory University
 Mr. Fred Schwartz, Founder and President, Auschwitz
 Jewish Center
 Mr. Elie Wiesel, Author, Founder of the Elie Wiesel
 Foundation for Humanity, and Holocaust Survivor

TRANSLATING THE BUSH INAUGURAL ADDRESS

By Robert J. Lieber, Professor of Government and
 International Affairs at Georgetown University.

President George W. Bush's inauguration for a second four-year term marked a ritual familiar to Americans but often less well understood abroad. The scale of the ceremony, the parades, and the celebration are universally comprehended. But the language of the president's address to the nation invoked ideals that have deep roots in American life, and their historical context is well worth explaining, or "translating," for a much wider audience.

Historical Precedents

Historically, the inaugural address provides a unique opportunity for a newly elected or re-elected president to go beyond political partisanship and the ordinary business of governance in order to speak to the entire country and to embody what President Abraham Lincoln in his first inaugural described as the "better angels of our nature." For generations, Democratic and Republican presidents have invoked the loftiest ideals in speaking about America's purpose, the religious foundations of these beliefs, and the indispensable role the U.S. plays, both as an example and in helping other peoples to achieve the fundamental ideals of freedom and democracy.

These beliefs reflect the uniqueness of the United States. Unlike most peoples of the world, Americans are immigrants or their descendants and are not unified by a shared ethnicity, race or national origin. Instead, to be American is to subscribe to the beliefs in democracy and liberty embodied in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.

For example, in January 1961, President John F. Kennedy uttered these stirring words, "Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty." Two decades later, in January

1981, Ronald Reagan spoke of America as "the exemplar of freedom and beacon of hope for those who do not now have freedom." And Bill Clinton proclaimed in his 1993 inaugural that, "Our hopes, our hearts, our hands, are with those on every continent who are building democracy and freedom. Their cause is America's cause."

Each of these presidents invoked liberty as a God-given right, an idea that goes back to the original founding of the United States. As long ago as 1630, John Winthrop, an early spiritual leader of the Puritans, delivered a sermon calling upon his followers to create a "city upon a hill" as they prepared to land in Massachusetts. In 1776, an American revolutionary author, Tom Paine, wrote that, "We have it in our power to begin the world all over again." And President Reagan reached back three and a half centuries to describe America as a "shining city on a hill."

In short, throughout the centuries, American thinkers and presidents have not only viewed freedom and democracy as an example to other peoples, but have encouraged and supported those who suffer oppression and seek to free themselves.

Understanding and Misunderstanding the Bush Speech

In his speech, President Bush proclaimed, "[I]t is the policy of the United States to seek and support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world." This statement embodies a key insight: real democracies do not make war on other democracies, nor do they nurture terrorists.

Yet some foreign observers have misunderstood or even distorted the meaning of this statement, claiming that it signals an imperial crusade to impose democracy by force. This kind of criticism not only provides an excuse for dictatorship and oppression, but it completely misstates the meaning of the Bush speech.

Indeed, the President made clear that, "This is not primarily the task of arms, though we will defend ourselves and our friends by force of arms when necessary ... America will not impose our own style of government on the unwilling ... Our goal instead is to help others find their own voice, attain their own freedom, and make their own way." The universality of this message is evident in the words, "America will not pretend that jailed dissidents prefer their chains, or that women welcome humiliation and servitude, or that any human being aspires to

live at the mercy of bullies.”

The President acknowledged that the “great objective of ending tyranny” is a long-term task, “the concentrated work of generations.” Nonetheless, though the effort is often arduous, there have been considerable successes in widening the sphere of democratic counties during the past half century. In this process, the United States has often played an indispensable part in encouraging or helping others to free themselves and to establish or solidify free institutions and the rule of law. The list encompasses countries in many regions including, among others, Germany, Japan, Italy, South Korea, the Philippines, parts of Asia and Africa, most of Eastern Europe, much of Latin America, and in recent days Ukraine.

The words of once imprisoned dissidents, such as Natan Sharansky in the Soviet Union, Lech Walesa in Poland, and Vaclav Havel in Czechoslovakia, testify to America’s importance in raising their spirits and reinforcing the determination of others like them in their ultimately successful struggles. Moreover, even where the task still remains hard and even dangerous, as in Afghanistan, the Palestinian Authority, and especially Iraq, the ouster of despotic regimes and the holding of free elections remain historic achievements.

Ideals and Security in the Post-9/11 World

The September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, as well as the March 11, 2004 train bombing in Madrid, and attacks in Turkey, Indonesia, the Philippines and other countries are evidence of a deadly threat. The danger comes not only from fanatical terrorist groups, but from tyrannies that support terrorism as well as those that seek weapons of mass destruction.

As President Bush observed, “The survival of liberty in our land increasingly depends on the success of liberty in other lands. The best hope for peace in our world is the expansion of freedom in all the world.” More specifically, as he added in a weekly radio address just two days later, “We will continue to promote freedom, hope and democracy in the broader Middle East -- and by doing so, defeat the despair, hopelessness and resentments that feed terror.”

In short, vital interests, ideals and security remain closely linked. Indeed, President Bush’s words echo those of Woodrow Wilson, John Kennedy, Franklin Roosevelt and Ronald Reagan, as they confronted two world wars and the Cold War. Now, in the face of a new peril, the

Bush inaugural is a bold restatement of American ideals at home and abroad. They deserve to be understood and valued for what they truly represent.

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This article was written for the Washington File. There are no republication restrictions. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. government.

VOLUNTEER ENROLLMENT BEGINS FOR INTERNATIONAL HIV VACCINE STUDY

Study locations in North and South America, Caribbean, Australia

A large clinical trial of a novel HIV vaccine has begun enrolling volunteers at sites in North America, South America, the Caribbean and Australia.

According to a January 24 National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) press release, organizers are seeking 1,500 participants.

The trial is co-funded by NIAID and the pharmaceutical company Merck & Co. Inc. Merck developed the experimental vaccine to stimulate HIV-specific cellular immunity, which prompts the body to produce T cells that kill HIV-infected cells.

In previous smaller trials, the vaccine was found to be safe and to induce cellular immune responses against HIV in more than half of trial participants.

“This new study is the first time we have used such a large sample of people to test whether a vaccine that stimulates cellular immunity alone either blocks HIV infection, decreases the level of HIV early in infection or both,” said NIAID Director Dr. Anthony Fauci.

The organizers are seeking healthy, HIV-negative men and women volunteers between ages 18 and 45 who are at an increased risk of acquiring HIV. The researchers plan to enroll a significant number of volunteers from populations particularly hard hit by AIDS, including African Americans and other ethnic minorities.

Enrollment is expected to take one year. NIAID and Merck expect the trial to be completed in 4.5 years, with results anticipated in 2010.

Information about enrolling in the clinical trial is available at
<http://www.hvtvn.org/>

Information about NIAID is available at
<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/>

Text of the NIH press release follows:

National Institutes of Health
 National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
 January 24, 2005

NIAID begins enrolling volunteers for novel HIV vaccine study

A large clinical trial of a novel HIV vaccine has begun enrolling volunteers at sites in North America, South America, the Caribbean and Australia. Organizers are seeking 1,500 participants.

The trial is co-funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the pharmaceutical company Merck & Co. Inc. Merck developed the experimental vaccine to stimulate HIV-specific cellular immunity, which prompts the body to produce T cells that kill HIV-infected cells. In previous smaller trials, this vaccine was found to be safe and to induce cellular immune responses against HIV in more than half of volunteers.

“This new study is the first time we have used such a large sample of people to test whether a vaccine that stimulates cellular immunity alone either blocks HIV infection, decreases the level of HIV early in infection or both,” says Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., director of NIAID.

This proof-of-concept trial is designed to yield vital information on the potential efficacy of cellular immunity against HIV, although it is not expected to provide

enough data to support immediate licensing of the vaccine for public use, says Margaret (Peggy) Johnston, Ph.D., who oversees HIV vaccine research at NIAID’s Division of AIDS.

The Merck vaccine contains a weakened adenovirus that serves as a carrier for three subtype B HIV genes. Subtype B is the most prevalent HIV subtype in the regions of the study sites. Adenoviruses are among the main causes of upper respiratory tract ailments such as the common cold. Because the vaccine contains only three HIV genes housed in a weakened adenovirus, study participants cannot become infected with HIV or get a respiratory infection from the vaccine.

“If this study finds that the vaccine can prevent or control infection, we will work with Merck to evaluate the vaccine in a larger number of volunteers,” adds Dr. Johnston. “We will also work with the company to determine the best vaccine design to test in parts of the world where other subtypes of HIV are circulating.”

The study will be conducted jointly by NIAID’s multi-center HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN) and by Merck. The lead researchers are Michael Robertson, M.D., of Merck and two HVTN investigators: Susan Buchbinder, M.D., of the San Francisco Department of Public Health and Daniel Fitzgerald, M.D., of Cornell University.

The organizers are seeking healthy, HIV-negative men and women volunteers between the ages of 18 and 45 who are at an increased risk of acquiring HIV. The researchers plan to enroll a significant number of volunteers from populations particularly hard-hit by AIDS, including African Americans and other ethnic minorities.

The trials will take place in the following locations:

North America: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis, San Francisco, Seattle, Toronto

South America: Iquitos and Lima, Peru

Caribbean: Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; Port-au-Prince, Haiti; San Juan, Puerto Rico

Australia: Sydney

Organizers expect that it will take approximately one year to fully enroll volunteers into the study. NIAID and

Merck expect the trial be completed in four-and-a-half years, with results anticipated in 2010. For more information on enrolling, visit HVTN's Web site at www.hvtn.org.

NIAID is a component of the National Institutes of Health, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIAID supports basic and applied research to prevent, diagnose and treat infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, influenza, tuberculosis, malaria and illness from potential agents of bioterrorism. NIAID also supports research on transplantation and immune-related illnesses, including autoimmune disorders, asthma and allergies.

News releases, fact sheets and other NIAID-related materials are available on the NIAID Web site at: <http://www.niaid.nih.gov>.

UPCOMING MIAMI CONFERENCE TO FOCUS ON FIGHTING MONEY LAUNDERING

Several U.S. officials will attend Feb. 9-11 event
By Eric Green
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- A conference to help the world's financial industry fight money laundering will be held in Miami, Florida, February 9-11, 2005.

Organizers of the conference say it aims to educate financial institutions on compliance in today's regulatory environment, including complying with the provisions of the USA Patriot Act, and to help these institutions maintain "a competitive edge by utilizing modern technology and best practices."

The event will feature professionals in the legal, regulatory, and financial industries who will update conference attendees on new legislation and recommend practical compliance solutions. The conference is designed for money transmitters in the United States and abroad, financial regulators, compliance officers, private banking managers, trade finance managers, broker dealers, attorneys, and accountants.

Organizers for the conference include the Federation of Latin American Banks, which represents more than

700 banking and financial institutions from 19 countries throughout Central and South America, and the non-profit Florida International Bankers Association, which represents more than 70 U.S. and foreign banks from 18 countries. That association's executive director, Pat Roth, says that under the USA Patriot Act, "everyone in the financial industry is now subject to new laws and regulations, not just banks." Broker dealers, money transmitters, check cashiers, and other financial entities in the United States and Latin America "need to understand their responsibilities and obligations" under the Patriot Act, said Roth.

The USA Patriot Act, signed into law by President Bush in 2001, is designed to expand intelligence and law enforcement capability to identify and disrupt terrorist activities.

A number of participants from the U.S. government are scheduled to speak at the Miami event, including William Fox, director of the U.S. Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN); Lester Joseph, acting chief of the U.S. Department of Justice's Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Section; and Herbert Biern, senior associate director of the Federal Reserve Board's Division of Supervision and Regulation. Other speakers include John O'Hara, senior investigative counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; and Carter McDowell, chief counsel for the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Financial Services.

The Treasury Department's FinCEN says money laundering involves criminals who disguise financial assets by converting them into seemingly legitimate income. FinCEN says money laundering can have "devastating social consequences." For instance, money laundering provides funds for drug dealers, terrorists, arms dealers, and other criminals to operate and expand their criminal enterprises. Left unchecked, money laundering can erode the integrity of national financial institutions, says FinCEN.

Organizers of the Miami conference say that for more than two decades, the financial industry has played an important role in the fight against money laundering. Originally asked to help in the war against illicit drugs and money laundering related to the illegal drug trade, the financial industry is now "doing its part to help prevent the use of the financial system to fund terrorism or other illicit activities," the organizers say.

Conference organizers add that both banking regulators and the financial industry have taken their additional responsibilities under the USA Patriot Act “very seriously,” with banks making significant investments in sophisticated software and hiring additional staff, while the regulatory bodies have issued severe penalties in the form of “cease and desist orders” and monetary fines for banks and other financial entities that have not met the strict compliance guidelines under the USA Patriot Act.

More information about the Miami conference is available online at:

<http://www.antimoneylaundering-fiba.com/index.asp>